
A
LETTER
TO
Mr. ROWE
Concerning the
NON-JUROR.

(Price Six-pence.)

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FOR

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C L U E 10

To the COMEDY of the
Non - Juror.

WITH SOME
Hints of Consequence

Relating to that

P L A Y.

I N A

L E T T E R

T O

N. ROWE, Esq;

Poet Laureat to His Majesty.

*Quo Musa tendis? desine pervicax
Referre Sermones Deorum——Hor.*

L O N D O N:
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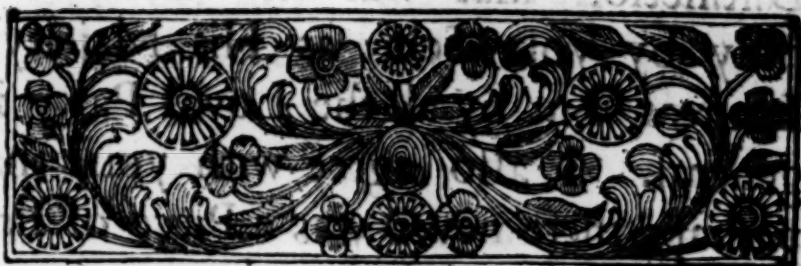
JOHN - J. H. R. O. W. N. E.

WITH SOME
HINTS OF CONDUCT



BY J. H. R. O. W. N. E.

NEW YORK



A CLUE to the
COMEDY
 OF THE
NON-FUROR,

With some *Hints* of Consequence
 relating to that **PLAY.**

Dear Mr. Rowe,



juror ; or that Entirely agree with
 you, That there has
 not of late appear'd
 in Publick, a more
 exquisite *Piece* of *Sa-*
tire, than the Come-
 dy call'd the *Non-*
 better deserv'd the
 Distin-

Distinction that was shown it, not only by your Self, as His Majesty's Laureat, but by all the Loyal Party in general. I also agree with you, that perhaps there never was a Piece of fine *Drama-Theological Satire*, the true Scope of which has been less understood. I am at a Loss which to admire most, the noble, free Spirit of our Friend the Author; the insensibility of those whom the Satire is really *Aim'd at*, or the ignorant Rage of those *disaffected Jacobite Wretches* who cry out when they are not hurt. You were pleas'd to desire me, when we met last, to put upon Paper the few Hints I dropt to you in Conversation upon this Subject, and which, I doubt not, are sufficient to make any unprejudic'd Reader of your and my Opinion; namely,

That *Disaffection* to the Government is the *smallest Immorality* which is pointed at by this Play; and which indeed is only introduced to hide a far deeper *Design*, and far more *useful Satire*.

In order to set this in it's true Light, I will but barely *point* at the several Figures of the Comedy, and make some short Remarks upon their Attitudes, without the Ill-manners of naming any particular Person, but leaving the free and impartial Reader to draw his own Inferences. Two general Observations only, are necessary to be premised, because every common Judge is not so sensible of them, as we who have been Writers all our Lives.

The *First* is, That when we *Rebuke our Superiours*, the Fable ought to be so couch'd, as to make the Criminal give Judgment against himself before he is aware: (an Art as ancient at least as the Days of *Nathan*) But if the Scene of Action be laid in a Subject not only quite *foreign*, but seemingly *opposite* to the principal Aim of the Satire, the Address will be still the more refined; because by this Method the Author introduceth *Facts* and *Personages* which the guilty will be sure to Condemn; not only from *natural Equity*, but *natural Aversion*.

Aversion. Thus, for Example, To engage a *Tory* to condemn a Piece of Iniquity in the Abstract, one need only lay the Scene among *Whigs*, and so on the contrary. And *Secondly*, I would put the Reader in mind that in Fables of this Nature, it is usual to represent *whole Parties of Men by single Personages*.

This premised, let us observe the principal Figure that presents it self to our View; I mean *Dr. Wolf*, whose Character answers to *Moliere's Tartuffe*, who is known to have represented a certain *puritanical Bishop in France*.

We next are to take Notice, That *Wolf* in the Stile of *Ecclesiastical Allegory* constantly signifies the *Presbyterian Party*: You know it is thus in the *Hind and Panther*, and most other Pieces of Controversial Divinity or Poetry. So *Dr. Wolf* is a *Presbyterian*.

Dr. Wolf expects for his Services in *Betraying the Church*, great *Ecclesiastical*
cal

cal Preferment, (as Sir John expresseth it) (1) an Office for Life, ^{(1) Nonjuror, pag. 18.} which, on whatsoever Pretence of Misbehaviour, no Civil Government can deprive him of. This is Ironically represented afterwards by the See of Thetford. So, in short, Dr. Wolf is a Bishop.

This Presbyterian Bishop has wrote something about the Case of Schism; and the Colonel tells his Father, That he (2) has read enough ^{(2) pag. 3.} of him in the Daily Courant. What Bishop has publish'd in the Daily Courant, is lippis et tonsoribus notum.

This Bishop protests great Zeal for the Church, at the same Time that he is betraying it: On which the Colonel tells Sir John, Tho' (3) ^{(3) pag. 3.} I have always honour'd your Concern
B for

for the Church, I little thought it was for a Church that is Establish'd no where. (i. e.) No visible Church.

This Bishop is mark'd with another strong Characteristick, managing a Dispute with *Heartly* about the *Nature of Prayer*. That
 (4) pag. 13. it ought not to be *Tedious*; (4) outward *Expression* not so absolutely necessary, since *Heaven* knew the
 * pag. 12. true *Intention of the Heart*. * And then he talks of his own *Manual of Devotions*.

This Bishop also pretends a mighty *Regard to tender Consciences*. He tell's *Heartly*, That we
 (5) pag. 13. (5) ought to allure them to what is Good by the gentlest, easiest Means we can, nor give the least colour of Offence to tender Consciences.

The

[II]

The Colonel here urges the Constitution against him, and the force of the Laws ; and desires him to explain himself ; to which this Bishop Answers (6) Sir, *I shall not* ^{(6) pag. 13} *explain my Self : But make your best of what I've said --- But Power perhaps may change it's Hands, and you e're long as little dare to speak your mind, as I do ; viz. That there may come a Time when this Constitution you talk so much of, may be overturned.*

Sir John is fully satisfy'd that the Doctor is all this while a (7) ^{(7) pag. 18.} *true stanch Member of the English Catholick Church ; mark, that is, such a Church as comprehends all Sects and Parties whatsoever.*

B 2

But

But lest these Lines shou'd not be strong enough, the Author gives the finishing Stroke.

This Bishop is at last discover'd to be a Jesuit in Disguise, By whom? By one of his School-Boys in whom he had distilled some of his Jesuitical Principles And most remarkable it is what the Colonel says on this Occasion.

(8) pag. 47. That (8) Charles begs he will not insist upon the Discovery, 'till his Circumstances will allow it: Almost in the very Stile of some Letters that passed, upon a parallel Occasion, between a Master of a School, and a Reverend Doctor.

At last Substantial Affidavits are produced, to prove Dr. Wolf to have been Educated a Jesuit; by which (as it is usual in Allegorical Writers) the close Conjunction

tion of a Reverend Prelate and a certain Jesuit, is most injuriously and scandalously insinuated.

So here is a *Prelate* and a *Jesuit* and his *Gang*, got into the Family of Sir John! Let us next see what they are to do there. Why, they contrive the Ruin of his Family, and the disinheriting and expulsion of his Children with so great an Assurance of Success, that the Doctor talks of Sir John in this manner: (9) *Poor Man! he* ^{(9) pag. 68.} *knows not his own Weakness; he is moulded into any Shape, if you but gently stroke his Humour. I intend to Morrow, to perswade him 'tis for the Interest of our Cause it should be so; and then I have him sure. Poor Sir John indeed!*

I must here put you in mind of my second Observation, that by the single Person of *Dr. Wolf*, without any forced Construction, may be understood a whole Set or Party of Men. To proceed then,

The Play Opens with a Dispute between *Sir John* and his *Daughter*, about the Formality of *Christening*, and *Sir John* is at it again, (*pag 63*) being extremely rejoiced that *Heartly* is *Christ'ned* according to the *Right Form*. There is also mention made of *Searching the Register*, &c.

Next we see *Dr. Wolf* insulting *Sir John's Son* and *Daughter*; he breaks into the *Daughter's* Bed-chamber before she is quite Up; and when she resents it, he tell's her (10) *Compose your Transport*,
Madam:

Madam: I came by your Father's Desire ; for what I have done, Madam, I had your Father's Authority, and shall leave him to answer you. The Daughter replies, (11) It is false, he gave you no (11) *Ibid.* Authority to insult me : What is it you presume upon ? your Function ! does that exempt you from the Manners of a Gentleman ?

At last his foul Behaviour provokes the Son to that degree, that he call's him (12) Villain, and (12) *pag. 4.* Rascal.

Sir John is nettled at this ; he tells his Son and Daughter, (13) (13) *pag. 44.* I see your Aim: Your Malice on your own vile Head. : To me it but the more endears him: Either submit and ask his Pardon for this Wrong, --- or this Instant leave my

my Sight, my House, my Family
for ever.

(14) pag. 45. The Son answers, (14) *Tho' I would hazard Life to save you from the Ruin he misleads you to, could Die to Reconcile my Duty to your Favour; yet on the Terms that Villain offers, 'tis Merit to refuse it. I Glory in the Disgrace your Errors give me.*

In short, Sir John's Attachment to Dr. Wolf was so great, that there appear'd but small Hopes of ever opening Sir John's Eyes: And remarkable is the Lamentation of the Son upon that Occasion; (15) *What horrid Hands is this poor Family fall'n into? How little is my Father like himself, by Nature Open, Just, and Generous? but this vile Hypocrite drives his weak Passions like the Wind; and I foresee*

foresee, at last, will dash him on his
Ruin.

When Dr. *Wolf* had wrought
up the Passion of Sir *John* to this
degree, as to turn his *Children* out
of *Doors*; then he interposeth his
good Offices, and proposeth a
Reconciliation.

I beg the Reader to observe
the Terms of it. That his Child
should be at the sole Disposal of Dr.
Wolf, and do nothing without
his Consent.

It must here be observ'd that
the Daughter had a Fortune of her
own, independent on the Father, upon
which she seems to value her Self. (17) pag. 5.

(17) Have not I 5000 l. in my own
hands? have not I had the full Swing
of my own *Airs* and *humours* these
four years? Mark the precise
time But she is put in mind by

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the

the Son, that tho' the Father could not *deprive her of her Fortune*, he might *abridge her Equipage* ; in these words (18) however a Father's Consent might have clapt a pair of horses more to your Coach.

(18) *Ibid.*

But at last he applauds her resolution, and tells her she *speaks with the Spirit of a free-born Englishman.*

Mark now the modesty of Dr. Wolf ; he proposes, as the Lowest and last condition, that she should resign the half of this independent fortune (19) Is not two thousand pounds worth two Thousand pounds ? Is not half better than nothing ?

(19) pag 54.

Observe

Observe next, (good Mr. *Rewe*) how Dr. *Wolf* endeavours to debauch Lady *Woodvill*, and make her Subservient to his Villainous designs: This Lady is described as having a great Ascendant over Sir *John's* Spirit that *She keeps no Assemblys*; that she had been *Poor and Beautiful*, while Sir *John* was *Rich and Amourous*. This Lady proves honest and trusty; and contributes, in the conclusion, to the discovery of the wicked purposes of Dr. *Wolf*.

Pray take notice too of a very odd Episode that seem to contribute very little to the main Action. That is Dr. *Wolf's* endeavouring to Bring Sir *John* into a Scheme of Church Comprehension; Referring again to his Case of *Schism*, he tells Sir *John* that (20) (20)pag. 25

C 2 differences

differences are not so material as some would represent them. Ah! could we be brought to a Temper, a great many seeming Contradictions might be reconciled. I allow this is a *Comprehension* of a different kind; but I beg leave to remind you and my Readers of my first observation, that the *Circumstances of a Fable* do not determine the *Satire*. But you, Sir, who are intimate with Mr. *Cibber* may examine and know the Truth of this.

Nothing is so plain as the *Catastrophe*; when Dr. *Wolf* thought himself sure of his Blow, and had brought Sir *John* to believe that his (21) *hot brain'd Son* (as he calls him) had a Design to get his Estate; he instantly makes Sir *John* resolve to repay it in kind by disinheriting him.

But

But at last, there arises a misfortune from a Corner where the *Doctor* least suspected it. Some of his own Party, whom he thought inviolably attach'd to his interests, discover his wicked purposes. This Sett of Men is represented by *Charles* an ingenious Gentleman, a Servant of *Sir John's*, a man of Business, a good *Greek* and *Latin* Scholar &c. This *Charles* (it seems) highly obliged by the Generous treatment of the *Son* and enamour'd of the good Qualities of the *Daughter*, both reveals, and prevents the whole *mystery of Iniquity*: Upon which *Dr. Wolf* seeing his project dissappointed vents his Rage upon this honest Gentleman; and attempts his Life.

Lastly,

Lastly, Mr. *Cibber* (to obviate all possibility of mistaking his meaning) upon the winding up of the whole design, breaks on a sudden into an open discourse of *Politicks*; talks of *embroiling the Nation*, and *ending Publick disputes* and calls upon King *George*, with abundance more good *Morality* very well worth observing.

Thus, Sir, according to your desire, I have given a short Sketch of the *Fable* and *Characters* of this Play; just enough to enable some person of greater *Sagacity* to find out who are meant by every particular *Personage* of the *Drama*. I am sure I would not presume so much as to guess.

But

But one Thing I must observe, which I remember we both took particular notice of: It is, that the Author tho' questionless a great master of Stile, puts *bad English* into the mouths of most of his Personages: So that indeed scarce any of e'm talk at all like *English Folks*; but perpetually make use of an uncorrect, *Foreign, Jargon*. What his drift is in this I cannot imagine; but the Instances of it are obvious to every Reader; and numerous *in every Page*.

I am,

Dear Mr. Rowe,

Your, &c.

P O S T S C R I P T.

Part of an *EPILOGUE*, Written
by N. Rowe, Esq; to a Play
call'd, *The Cruel Gift: Or,*
The Royal Resentment ; a
TRAGEDY. *

THE former Part of this
EPILOGUE turns u-
pon the Plot of the Play, the
latter Part is as follows, viz,

How many Worthy Gentlemen of
(late,

Swore to be true to *Mother-Church*
and State ;

When their *False Hearts* were se-
cretly maintaining

Yon trim King *PEPIN* at *Avignon*
Reigning ?

Shame

Shame on the canting Crew of Soul
Insurers,

That Tyburn-Tribe of Speech-Making
Non-Jurors.

Who in new fangled Terms, old
Truths explaining,

Teach honest *Englist-men*, damn'd
Double Meaning.

The great *Loyalty* express'd
in these Lines, is so appa-
rent, as not to stand in need
of the least Comment.

The Conclusion of this *Epilogue*
being the Character of an Illu-
strious *PERSONAGE*, I re-
fer the Reader to the Play above-
mention'd for the Satisfaction of
his Curiosity.

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